



Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 364629
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-8629

QA: N/A

OCT 04 2002

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Readers Guide and Summary of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250)*. Also enclosed is a CD ROM, which includes the Readers Guide and Summary; Volume I – Impact Analyses (Chapters 1-15); Volume II – Appendices A – O, and Volume III – Comment Response Document (Parts 1 – 4). In addition, Volume IV, which contains information regarding transportation and repository accident scenarios, is available as discussed at the conclusion of this letter. Also enclosed with the Summary is an errata sheet, which describes errors that the Department of Energy (DOE) has identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) since the EIS was approved in February 2002. DOE has considered these errors individually and collectively, and has determined that no errors identified would cause a significant change to the environmental impacts, nor would they change the conclusions reached in the Final EIS.

Availability of the Draft EIS was announced in the Federal Register on August 13, 1999, and was followed by a 199-day comment period ending February 28, 2000. A Supplement to the Draft EIS was issued in May 2001 and was followed by a 57-day comment period ending July 6, 2001. A total of 24 public hearings were conducted for the Draft and Supplement, held both nationally and in the State of Nevada. DOE considered all comments received on these two documents in preparing the Final EIS.

The Final EIS differs from the Draft EIS and Supplement in several respects. Changes were made in the Final EIS in response to comments on the Draft EIS and Supplement, to correct errors in the Draft EIS and Supplement, and to provide new information or improved analyses relevant to the Final EIS. The Final EIS evaluates (1) the potential impacts of the construction, operation and monitoring, and eventual closure of a repository; (2) the potential long-term impacts of repository disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste; (3) the potential impacts of transporting these materials to the repository; and (4) the potential impacts of not proceeding with a repository. The Final EIS identified DOE's preferred alternative, which is to proceed with the proposed action to construct, operate and monitor, and eventually close a repository at Yucca Mountain, and to use mostly rail, both nationally and in Nevada, to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository.

On February 14, 2002, DOE Secretary Abraham submitted his recommendation to President Bush for approval of the Yucca Mountain site. As required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, the Final EIS accompanied the

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recommendation to the President, and was made available to the public electronically on the Internet (www.ymp.gov) and in 38 public reading rooms at that time. On February 15, 2002, the President notified Congress of his approval. After the State of Nevada submitted a notice of disapproval on April 8, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed a joint resolution of siting approval for the Yucca Mountain site on May 8 and July 9, 2002, respectively. The President signed the resolution into law on July 23, 2002.

DOE is now distributing paper copies of the Summary and CD ROMs containing the Final EIS and will file it with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. There are several ways to request a paper copy of the 5,000-page Final EIS. Copies of the Final EIS may be requested by calling (800) 225-6972, or by writing to Dr. Jane R. Summerson, EIS Document Manager, M/S 010, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office, P.O. Box 364629, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-8629. DOE will respond promptly to such requests by priority mail. The Final EIS is also available at 38 public reading rooms across the country and on the Internet (www.ymp.gov). However, in light of the events of September 11, 2001, Volume IV is available only upon written request to the DOE EIS Document Manager at the above address.

If you require further information, please contact Dr. Summerson at (702) 794-1493.

Sincerely,


J. Russell Dyer
Project Manager

OL&RC:JRS-1788

Enclosures:

1. Readers Guide and Summary of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250)* including errata sheet
2. CD ROM of Readers Guide and Summary and Volumes I, II, and III including errata sheet